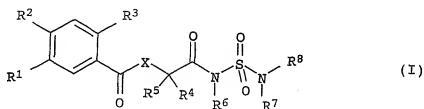


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

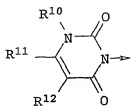
1. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative compound of the formula I



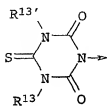
wherein:

X is oxygen or NR<sup>9</sup>,

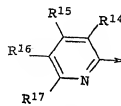
R<sup>1</sup> is a heterocyclic radical of the formulae II-A to II-H,



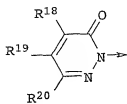
(II-A)



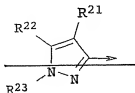
(II-B)



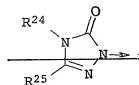
(II-C)



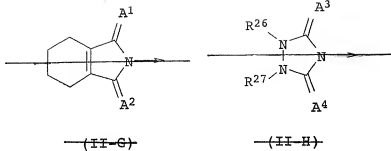
(II-D)



(II-E)



(II-F)



R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or halogen,

R<sup>3</sup> is halogen or cyano,

R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> independently of one another are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl  
or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together are a group =CH<sub>2</sub>,

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy,

R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> independently of one another are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfinyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

cyano-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

amino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl) amino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

aminocarbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylamino)carbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

phenyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylphenyl or

R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a saturated or unsaturated 3-, 4-, 5-, 6 or 7-membered nitrogen heterocycle which may optionally contain one or two further heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen as ring members, which may contain 1 or 2 carbonyl and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and halogen,

R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, phenyl, phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl,

R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or amino,

R<sup>11</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

R<sup>12</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>13'</sup> independently of one another are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>14</sup> is halogen,

R<sup>15</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>16</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyloxy,

R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or amino,

R<sup>19</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl,

R<sup>20</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>21</sup> is hydrogen, halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

R<sup>22</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylthio or  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl,

R<sup>23</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl,

or

R<sup>22</sup> and R<sup>23</sup> together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or

7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which may contain a heteroatom  
selected from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen as a ring-forming  
atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three radicals selected  
from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and halogen,

R<sup>24</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

R<sup>25</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

or

R<sup>24</sup> and R<sup>25</sup> together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or

7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which optionally contains an oxygen  
atom as ring-forming atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three  
radicals selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and halogen,

R<sup>26</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

R<sup>27</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl,

or

$R^{26}$  and  $R^{27}$  together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which optionally contains an oxygen atom as ring-forming atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C1-C4-alkyl and halogen,  $A^1$ ,  $A^2$ ,  $A^3$ ,  $A^4$  are each independently of one another oxygen or sulfur, or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid ~~derivative~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^2$  is fluorine, chlorine or hydrogen.

3. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid ~~derivative~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^3$  is chlorine or cyano.

4. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid ~~derivative~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 where X is oxygen.

5. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid ~~derivative~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^6$  is hydrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid ~~derivative~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-A in which  $R^{10}$  is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or amino,  $R^{11}$  is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl and  $R^{12}$  is hydrogen.

7. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-B in which  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{13'}$  are each independently of one another  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-C in which  $R^{14}$  is fluorine or chlorine,  $R^{15}$  is hydrogen and  $R^{16}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -haloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylsulfonyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylsulfonyloxy.

9. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-D in which  $R^{18}$  is hydrogen, methyl or amino,  $R^{19}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -haloalkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylsulfonyl and  $R^{20}$  is hydrogen.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative compound as claimed in claim 1 where  $R^1$  is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-H in which  $R^{26}$  and  $R^{27}$  are each

independently of one another C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl or R<sup>26</sup> together with R<sup>27</sup> are a chain of the formulae -CH<sub>2</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-.

14. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative-compound as claimed in claim 1 where

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, chlorine or fluorine,

R<sup>3</sup> is chlorine or cyano,

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen and

X is oxygen.

15. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative-compound as claimed in claim 1 where R<sup>4</sup> or R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen and the other radical R<sup>4</sup> or R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> are each methyl.

16. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative-compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier and, if desired, at least one surfactant.

17. (Currently Amended) A composition for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, comprising an effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative-compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as

claimed in claim 1 which acts as a desiccant/defoliant and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier and, if desired, at least one surfactant.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 to act on plants, their habitat and/or on seed.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing an amount which is effective as a desiccant/defoliant of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative compound of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt thereof as claimed in claim 1 to act on plants.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation or for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, comprising applying to plants, the habitat of the plants or seeds of the plants an agriculturally effective amount of a derivative compound or salt of claim 1.